

Remarks

Claims are 1-20 pending, and claims 1-20 stand rejected. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1-20.

Claim Objections

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner is confused as to whether the SCP system includes a destination processor. Claim 1 describes a method that includes the steps of, in the SCP system, transferring caller-entered information to a destination processor and processing a destination routing code from the destination processor. The destination processor is not part of the SCP system; the destination processor is part of the destination. The language of claim 1 should be clear enough for one skilled in the art to understand whether they are infringing (*see Exxon Research and Engineering Co. v. U.S.*, 60 USPQ2d 1272 (CA FC 2001) for the standard for indefiniteness), because the SCP system transmits to a destination processor and processes a routing code from the destination processor. Therefore, claim 1 is definite under § 112.

Regarding claim 11, the Examiner is confused as to whether the SCP system or the destination processor transfers the destination routing instruction to the switching system. In claim 11, the SCP system is configured to do the following: (1) transfer the caller-entered information to a destination processor, (2) process a destination routing code from the destination processor to determine a destination routing instruction, and (3) transfer the destination routing instruction to the switching system. The use of commas makes it clear that the SCP system transfers the destination routing instruction to the switching system. Therefore, claim 11 is definite under § 112.

§ 103 Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 11-12, 14-16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of U.S. Patent number 6,148,069 (Ekstrom) and U.S. Patent number 5,566,235 (Hetz). The Applicants submit that Ekstrom, Hetz, and the combination of the two do not teach the limitations in independent claim 1. Claim 1 is a method that includes the steps of:

"in the SCP system, transferring the caller-entered information to a destination processor,

processing a destination routing code from the destination processor to determine a destination routing instruction, and transferring the destination routing instruction to the switching system" and
"in the switching system, routing the call to a destination in response to the destination routing instruction".

Neither Ekstrom nor Hetz teach these limitations. Ekstrom describes a method of collecting information from a caller using an Intelligent Peripheral (IP) (*see* FIGS. 1 and 3-4, column 3, lines 11-29, column 6, lines 10-20, column 8, lines 43-63). Responsive to receiving a call into a switch, the switch queries an SCP. The SCP provides instructions to route the call to the IP. The IP collects information from the caller and sends the collected information to the SCP.

As admitted by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, Ekstrom does not teach the steps performed by the SCP system as described in claim 1. More particularly, Ekstrom does not teach, in an SCP system, transferring the caller-entered information to a destination processor. The IP in Ekstrom transfers the information from the caller to the SCP, not to a destination processor. Ekstrom does not teach, in an SCP system, processing a destination routing code from the destination processor to determine a destination routing instruction. Further, Ekstrom does not teach, in the switching system, routing the call to a destination in response to the destination routing instruction as described in claim 1.

Hetz describes a method of communicating between multiple SCPs to route calls between networks. (*see* FIGS. 1 and 3, column 9, line 56 to column 10, line 27). A switch (21) receives a call and queries the ISCP (25) to handle the call. If the ISCP has the proper information to handle the call, then the ISCP responds to the switch with call control information. If the ISCP does not have the proper information to handle the call, then the ISCP has to access other SCPs (35, 45) to get the information.

Hetz does not teach the steps performed by the SCP system as described in claim 1. More particularly, Hetz does not teach, in an SCP system, transferring the caller-entered information to a destination processor. First, Hetz does not teach or suggest that the SCP transmits caller-entered information as described in claim 1. Hetz teaches an SCP that communicates with other SCPs to receive information on how to route a call (*see* Hetz, column 10, lines 48-67), but does not teach or suggest that the SCP transfers information entered by the

caller. Second, Hetz does not teach or suggest that the SCP communicates with a destination processor. The Examiner states that the other SCPs (35, 45) in Hetz may be considered destination processors. The Applicants disagree. An SCP belongs to the communication provider or carrier, such as Sprint, AT&T, etc. The communication provider controls and programs the SCPs. The SCPs in Hetz are not controlled by the destination of a call, but are controlled by the carrier (1 or 2). The destination processor in claim 1 is controlled by the destination of the call, as is inherent in the term "destination processor". Therefore, the SCPs in Hetz cannot be thought of as a destination processor as described in claim 1. Because Hetz does not teach a destination processor, Hetz does not teach transferring the caller-entered information to a destination processor.

Further, Hetz does not teach, in an SCP system, processing a destination routing code from the destination processor to determine a destination routing instruction as described in claim 1. As previously stated, Hetz does not teach a destination processor, and consequently, does not teach processing a destination routing code from a destination processor. At a higher level, the SCP system in claim 1 is able to determine a routing instruction for routing a call to the destination based on a routing code provided by a processor of the destination. In other words, the destination processor is controlling the routing of calls to the destination. Hetz does not teach or suggest this concept. Hetz provides for normal call routing using SCPs.

Further, Hetz does not teach, in the switching system, routing the call to a destination in response to the destination routing instruction as described in claim 1. The SCP system determines the destination routing instruction from a destination routing code from a destination processor. As previously stated, Hetz does not teach a destination processor, and consequently, does not teach determining the destination routing instruction from a destination routing code from a destination processor. Because Hetz does not teach determining the destination routing instruction of claim 1, Hetz consequently does not teach routing a call to a destination based on a destination routing code.

Based on these remarks, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is novel and non-obvious in view of Ekstrom, Hetz, and the combination of the two. Claim 11 is novel and non-obvious for similar reasons. Dependent claims 2, 4-6, 8, 12, 14-16, and 18 are novel and non-obvious because they are dependent on a novel and non-obvious independent claim.

The other § 103 rejections of dependent claims 3, 7, 9-10, 13, 17, and 19-20 are moot

because these dependent claims are dependent on a novel and non-obvious independent claim.


Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are allowable. There may be additional reasons in support of patentability, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of brevity. The Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-20.

Any fees may be charged to deposit account 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

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